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LB 462

SENATOR Dw. PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor and colleagues. The state of Nebraska has had a longstanding public policy of protecting unborn life whenever possible, allowing for the use of human fetal tissue for research at our public university creates an entanglement between the state and abortion providers due to the need to develop relationships for a supply of human fetal tissue. It also makes the state dependent on the existence of future induced abortions to supply human fetal tissue for this purpose. LB 462 is intended to create a wall of separation between the state of Nebraska and the fetal tissue business. It will prohibit the use of human fetal tissue from an induced abortion by public employees of state or local government, the use of public facilities and public equipment, and the use of public funds. It differs from last year's bill in that it only applies to public personnel, public facilities, and public funds. Several state laws that impose general bans on the use of fetal tissue have been struck down as unconstitutional in our courts. This bill was based upon United States Supreme Court decisions that provide that a state may adopt public policy that favors child birth over abortion, and may allocate public facilities, funds and resources accordingly. The bill also contains a state version of the federal law that bans buying and selling of federal tissue and solicitation of an abortion for the purpose of obtaining tissue. LB 462 has been drafted so as not to restrict the use of vaccines or other substances derived from human fetal tissue obtained from abortions induced prior to the effective date of that act. Although the bill does not impose criminal penalties except for buying or selling tissue or soliciting abortion for the purposes of obtaining tissue, it does allow for the Attorney General to seek an injunction preventing future use of such tissue. That's the official description to the bill for the record. Now I want to share with you my reasons for introducing LB 462. First of all, let me assure you that I am not against the research they are doing at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. In fact, I am in awe of it. I personally toured the research facilities last summer right after we adjourned and was most impressed with the research that is being done there. I was impressed with the work that the doctors are doing and can very much see the human element that everyone brings to this vital research. I certainly do not want